

The ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

June 1987



Big Summer Show Takes Visitors to A World 50 Million Years Away In “Zoology Of The Future” Opening June 5



One of the exhibit's fierce creatures, the Night Stalker, has been animated by Dinamation, the makers of realistic dinosaurs.

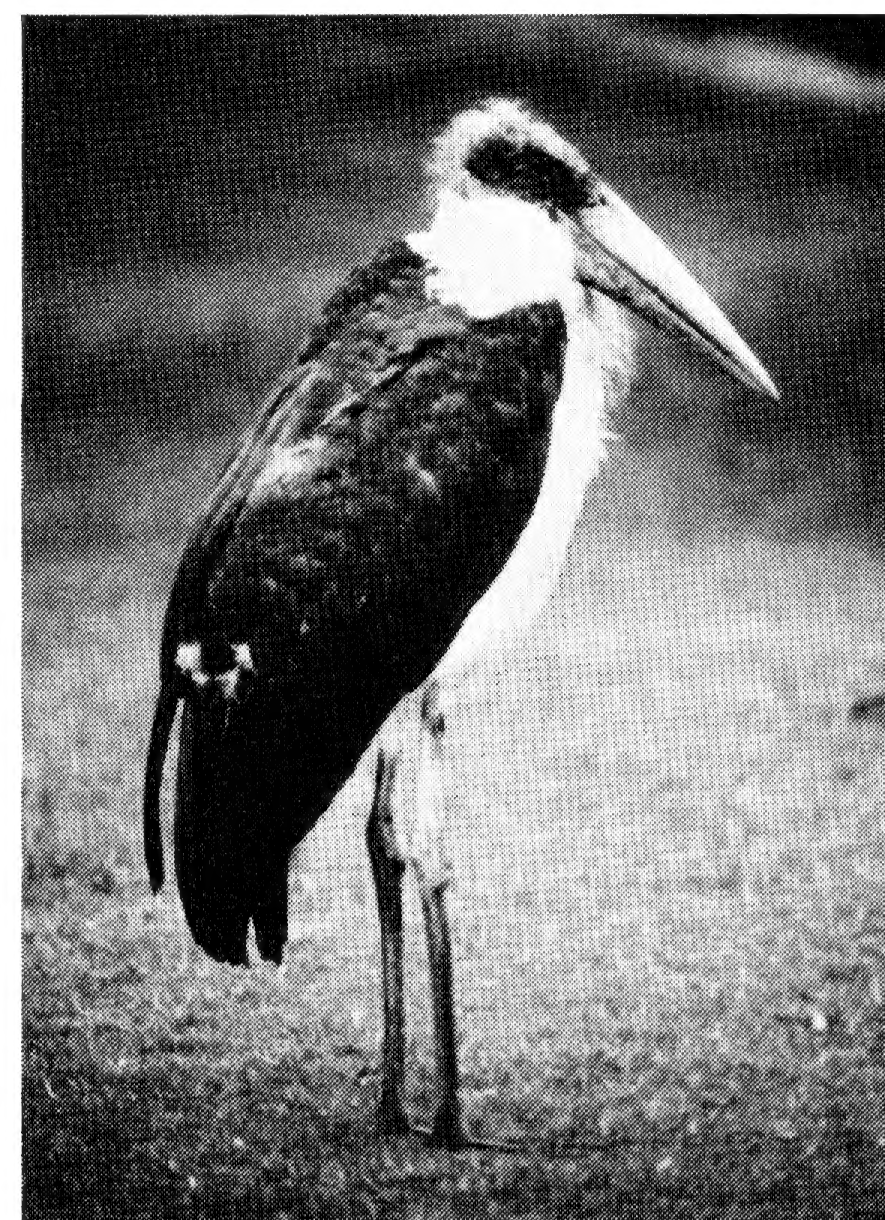
Imagine a crystal ball so powerful it pulls in pictures from as far away as fifty million years. Scottish geologist, Dougal Dixon, has just such a receiver: his vivid imagination which has seen incredible creatures roaming, swinging and otherwise moving over the Earth long after man has vanished.

This summer the Academy presents a fascinating exhibition based on Dixon's popular book, *Life After Man: A Zoology of the Future*, about the effects of evolution on animals 50 million years in the future. Visitors walk through a time tunnel of light and sound to see the fantastic creatures designed by Dixon using valid evolu-

tionary principles. Animals such as the Woolly Gigantelope, the brachiating Striger, and the cleverly camouflaged Oakleaf Toad, are three future creature features built by Japanese model makers for this traveling show. Videos and graphics, plus two animated beasts — the lovable 6-foot Desert Leaper and the fierce bat-like Night Stalker — bring the future into sharp focus at “Zoology of the Future.” In Hohfeld Galleries I and II and Lovell White Hall, through September 7.

See inside for details on two special evening events with the creator of “Zoology of the Future,” Dougal Dixon.

The Birds of Africa at Members' Meeting



Jens Vindum

“A lion is a lion, but a Lilac-breasted roller is an event.” In the Members' Meetings on June 10 and 11, Beth Dunbar will share her knowledge and delight with the birds of Africa in a lively slide lecture.

The joy for both bird watchers and photographers is that African birds, rather than being hidden in dense vegetation, are accessible to the eye. Naturalist Beth Dunbar, who has recently returned from her 14th trip to Africa, will introduce Academy members to the wonders of African birds, such as Secretary bird, which strides on stork-like legs through tall grass looking for lizards and snakes, but is actually a hawk with a terrestrial hunting strategy, or the flocks of more than a million pink flamingos nesting and feeding along the Rift Valley lakes of East Africa. Beth Dunbar, an Associate of the Academy, is completing her Master's Thesis at San Francisco State University on the Behavior of African Birds.

Members' Meetings are on June 10 at 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. and on June 11 at 8:00 p.m. in Morrison Auditorium. Members should have their membership cards ready to show at the door. The Members' Meetings on July 8 and 9 will take “An Indian Ocean Odyssey” with Dr. Robert Drewes, Chairman of the Department of Herpetology.

Endangered Folkways Find New Vitality in Traditional Arts Programs



Westwind International Folk Ensemble

The mechanization of modern life is a threat to the traditional folkways that have been passed down through many generations. Happily many of these skills are finding renewed vitality through the commitment of Bay Area residents who dedicate themselves to maintaining their cultural traditions. Each Saturday at 1:00 p.m. an individual or group shares some part of their heritage with museum visitors in a performance of music or handcrafts with explanations for the audience. The programs, which are funded by a grant from Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Foundation, are presented free to museum visitors after the normal museum admission charge.

June 6 — No Program

June 13 — The Westwind International Folk Ensemble performs in Wattis Hall a dance medley that reflects American folklife. The repertoire includes Texas knock-down, exuberant Appalachian clogging, 1940's swing and, in tribute to our seafaring forefathers, the sailors' hornpipe.

June 20 — No longer at the center of village life, today's blacksmith does more than shoe horses, and smithy Bruce Northridge is no exception. Bruce brings his anvil

and sledgehammer to the Academy's Central Courtyard and, using hand-forging techniques, fashions iron tools and historical restoration pieces.

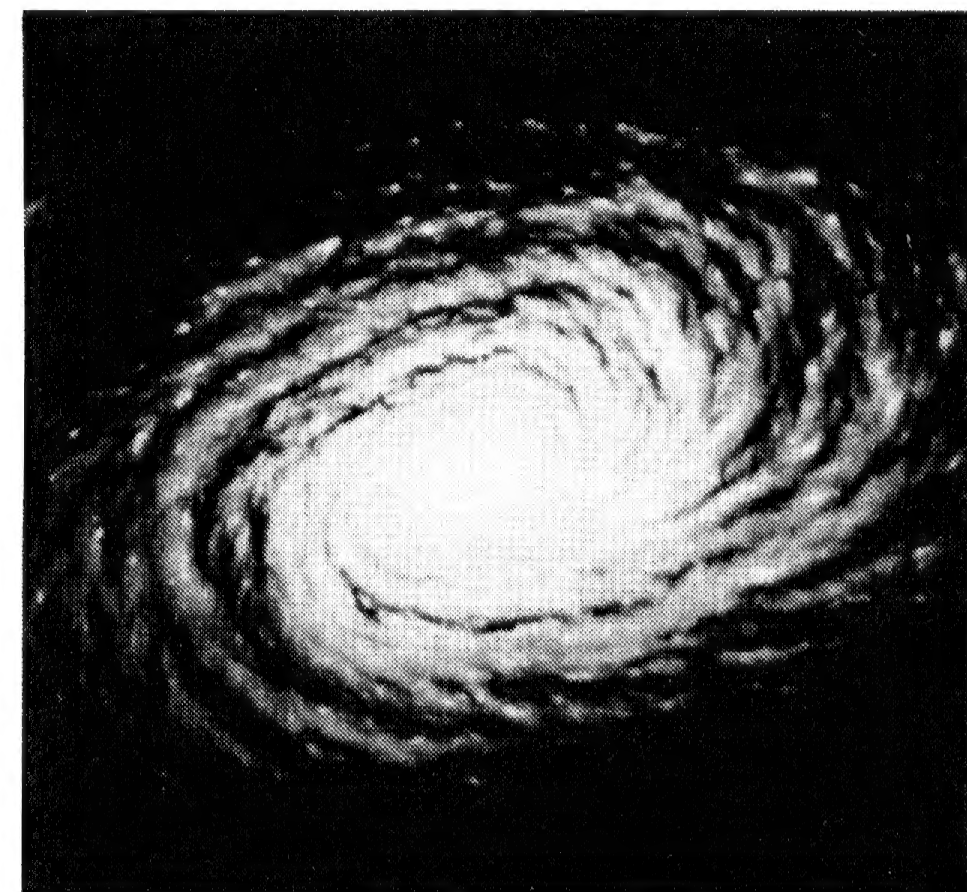


June Anderson

Bruce Northridge

June 27 — Musician and master instrument-builder Lyn Elder focuses on the history of the trumpet. In his demonstration and lecture in Wattis Hall, Elder constructs a natural (non-valve) trumpet typical of the Renaissance and Baroque eras, discussing its relationship to cornets and horns. After cutting, soldering, polishing and bending the brass form, Elder demonstrates its tonal capabilities and invites visitors to play the variety of instruments on display.

Solar Voyage Ends Where Cosmic Limits Begins



June is the last month to take a "Solar Voyage" in Morrison Planetarium. This journey to the Sun, which takes place daily through June 21, casts new light on the past, present, and future of this giant star which gives life to our planet.

The Planetarium will be closed from June 22 through June 25 while the theater is prepared for the new sky show.

"Cosmic Limits" opens June 26 with mind-boggling facts about our universe and beyond. How big is the biggest star? What is the most distant object in the cosmos? How old is the universe? "Cosmic Limits" will take your mind to the edge (if there is one) of the universe from June 26 through September 13.

Sky shows are weekdays at 2:00 p.m. and weekends at 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, and 4:00 p.m.

As the busy summer season approaches, members should remember to be in line at the Planetarium at least ten minutes before showtime in order to be assured of getting a seat.

"Exploring the Skies of the Season" shows the skies over the Bay Area no matter what the weather. Discover where to find the stars of Hercules and the Summer Triangle as well as the planets visible in the current night sky. "Exploring the Skies of the Season" is shown on Saturdays and Sundays at noon.

Celebrate That Special Occasion with a Party at the Academy

Make your child's birthday a memorable occasion with a party at the Academy of Sciences. Beginning July 1, you can arrange a special party for your child — or your favorite aunt or friend. Parties include admission to the museum, a planetarium show (for children 6 and over), lunch in the Jungle Cafe, birthday cake, balloons, party favors, and an

"Auntie" or "Uncle" who greets the guests and stays throughout the party. A party can be arranged for groups of ten to 20. The cost is \$10 per person for a child's party; menu and prices for an adult's party will differ. Parties must be arranged at least two weeks in advance; call the Special Events Office at (415) 750-7221 for further information and reservations.

Academy Hosts American Association of of Museums



The 82nd annual meetings of the American Association of Museums will bring three thousand delegates from museums all over the country to San Francisco from June 7 to 11. Dr. Frank H. Talbot (above), Executive Director of the California Academy of Sciences, is the general chairman of this year's meetings, the theme of which is "Innovation." Sessions allow representatives from museums of all types — from art museums to zoos — to share ideas and concerns, and to establish ways to meet the changing needs of museums in the 21st century. The Academy is co-hosting a gala evening for the delegates to allow them to sample both the beauty of Golden Gate Park, its gardens and museums and the famous San Francisco cuisine.

Summer Reading Brings Special Rewards



The Dinosaur Daze reading game from June 15 through August 31 is the highlight of this year's summer reading program co-sponsored by the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library and the California Academy of Sciences. Youngsters 13 and under can sign up at their local public library to play the game. Each time a youngster finishes reading a book he or she earns one spin on the Dinosaur Daze board game, moving through a maze of imagined dinosaurs towards a prize of two free tickets to the Academy and Morrison Planetarium.

Last year more than 4,000 youngsters participated and this year's Dinosaur Daze hopes to lead even more readers on the trail to fun summer reading. For more information call your local branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

Get Ankle Deep in Adventure



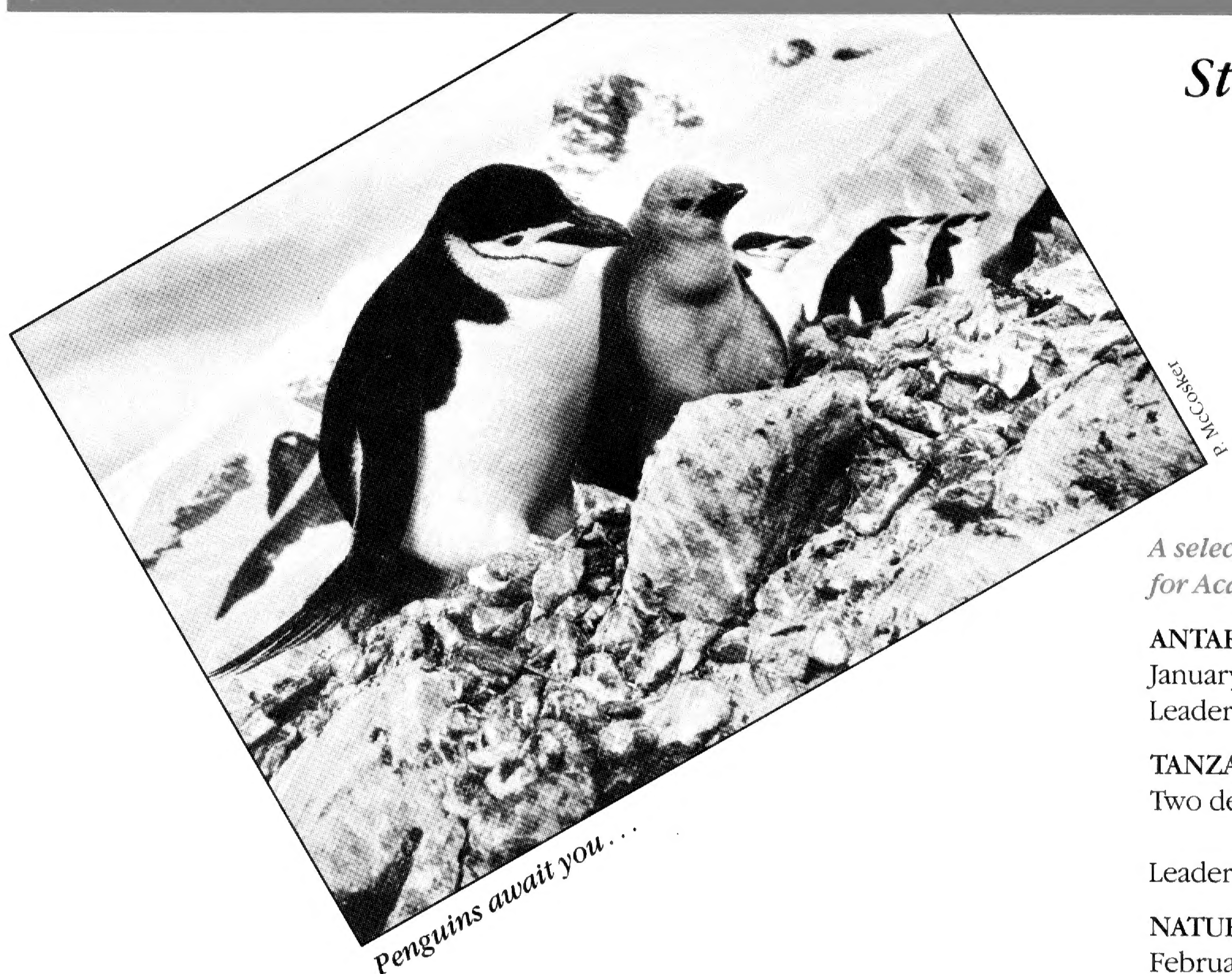
Discover the fascinating world that exists along our California shore on a tidepooling adventure on June 13 and 14. California tidepools are renowned for their rich variety of colorful marine life, and participants in these trips will have a chance to explore two nearby areas which, although geographically close to each other, have very diverse lifeforms.

The first morning will be spent at Duxbury Reef near Bolinas, the largest intertidal reef on the west coast. Here the tidepools harbor life typical of the northern regions of the California coast including sea stars, extensive mussel beds, and many types of nudibranchs, the fantastically colored slugs of the sea. The following morning the tidepools of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve in Moss Beach will reveal their abundant invertebrate life which is typical of the southern coastline of our state. Solitary corals, abalone, and octopuses are commonly seen along these shores.

Trip leaders are Dr. Terry Gosliner, an Academy Curator who is an authority on nudibranchs and Patricia Dal Porto, an Academy naturalist who has been active in preserving Fitzgerald Marine Reserve as a high quality educational and scientific resource. The cost, which does not include transportation, is \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members. For information call the Education Office at (415) 750-7100.

Announcing

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January 7-20

Leader: Dr. Kathy Ann Miller

TANZANIA TENTING SAFARI

Two departures: January 14-30

March 3-19

Leader: Beth Dunbar

NATURAL HISTORY OF COSTA RICA

February 1-18

Leader: Dr. Frank Almeda

THE FRINGE OF ANCIENT POLYNESIA

March 7-24

Leader: Dr. John McCosker

ALASKA AND ABOVE THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

June 11-July 1

Leader: Dr. David Kavanaugh

THE LAND OF GENGHIS KHAN:

Mongolia and Siberia

June 9-July 1

Leader: Dr. Robert Drewes

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

August

Leaders: Dr. and Mrs. Frank Talbot

KENYA ADVENTURE SAFARI

August 14-29

Leader: Beth Dunbar

INDIANS OF THE SOUTHWEST

September

Leader: Dr. Linda Cordell

GALÁPAGOS:

The Enchanted Isles

October 4-18

Leader: Dr. Robert Drewes

THE YUCATAN:

Land of the Maya

November 4-17

Leader: Dr. John Carlson

*For information
on our 1988 expeditions, call
The Academy Travel Office
(415) 750-7222*

Special Exhibitions Portray the Rich Variety of Life on Earth

The "Lightning!" exhibit is even more powerful than when it opened in January. Visitors have been contributing daily to a group diary — a growing collection of personal experiences with lightning. One visitor tells of having a ball of lightning enter a window, skip across the floor she was washing, and bounce out the door. Another recounts seeing a bolt cause a giant oak to be "turned into charred toothpicks before my eyes," and another details a close encounter with a bolt that traveled down a power pole, across the wire and out through the television antennae of his house. These personal accounts add one more fascinating dimension to this exhibit which explores the causes and lore of lightning. Visitors who have not had their own close encounter with lightning can get into the act by using the interactive displays to create their own mini-bolts and by holding lightning in their hands at the plasmasphere globe. "Lightning!"

has been extended and can be seen daily in the Academy Concourse through July 26.

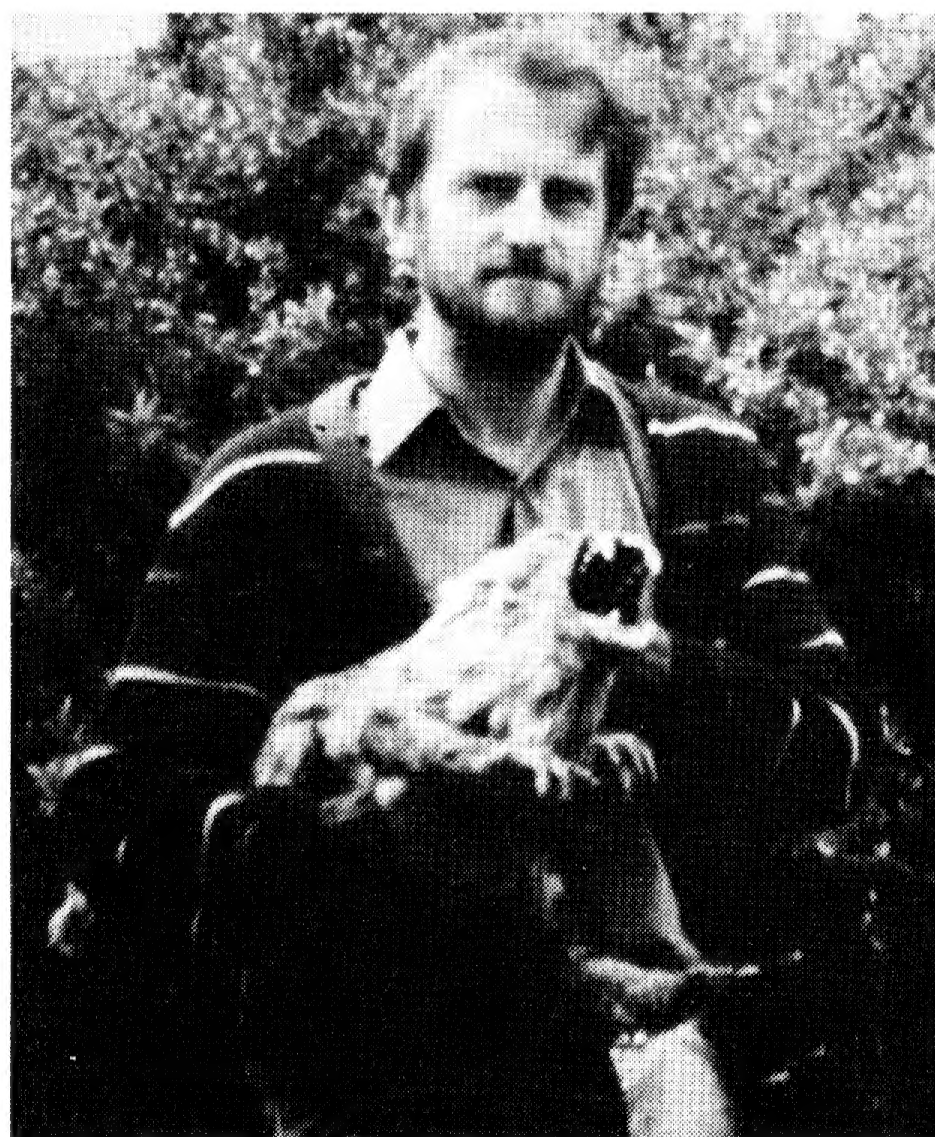
"Connecting Threads: Highlanders of Laos" captures in color photographs the traditions of the mountain peoples of Laos. Intricate needlework using a rich variety of colors adorns every aspect of their lives. This exhibit can be seen in Lower Cowell Hall through June 14. Laotian needlework done by women now making their homes in the Bay Area is on display in the Ethnographic Gallery of the Academy Store through June 21.

The winning photographs from the "Fifth Annual Photography Contest for Young People" will be exhibited in Lower Cowell Hall from June 20 through October 4. Co-sponsored by KRON-TV and the California Academy of Sciences this year's winners will once again reflect the talent and artistic sophistication of young photographers as they record their views of the world.

Creator of "Zoology of the Future" Visits Academy June 4 and 5

Dougal Dixon, a paleontologist specializing in evolution, has created a fantastic new world of amazing fictitious creatures based on scientific fact and the principles of evolution. His creations are the stars of the Academy's big summer exhibition, "Zoology of the Future" and members of the Academy are invited to a special preview on Thursday, June 4 from 7 to 9 p.m. Meet Dougal Dixon who will be happy to autograph copies of his book which are available from the new Academy Store.

On June 5, at 7:30 p.m. Dixon will present a slide lecture, open to both members and the general public. Tickets will cost \$3.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children under 12, available only at the



door beginning at 6:30 p.m. The exhibit will be open from 6:30 to 7:30 and Dixon will sign books following the lecture.

Magical Sights and Sounds in Laserium

Powerful krypton and argon lasers weave a web of colorful patterns and dazzling effects on the dome of Morrison Planetarium while music of many styles is played on the Planetarium's stereo sound system. June is the last month to catch "Pink Floyd," "LaserSpace," and "Lites Out." No, Laserium isn't leaving, but next month dramatic changes are coming to the original laser light show that will amaze even experienced Laserium fans. For show schedules call (415) 750-7138.

Two Special Summer Concerts in the Planetarium

This summer Morrison Planetarium presents special concerts of ethereal music and celestial vistas. On July 21 and 22 Maria Emilia Parisotto de Mendonca performs "The Rings of Planet Uranus" on acoustic piano and piano strings, accompanied by planetarium and visual effects.

On August 11 and 12 the very popular Emerald Web returns to the Planetarium. Fresh from the release of their latest album, "Cats-paw," on compact disk and the production of musical soundtracks for the science series "Nova" on PBS, Bob Stohl and Kat Epple bring their rich flute and synthesizer melodies to the Planetarium's star-filled dome, with special visuals contributed by Laserium.

For ticket information see your July Newsletter or call (415) 750-7127 after June 15.

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June Is The Beginning of a Summer of Activities

- 4 Members Preview of "Zoology of the Future"
7-9:00 p.m.
- 5 "Zoology of the Future" opens
- 5 Dougal Dixon lecture — 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Members' Meeting — "The Birds of Africa"
Beth Dunbar — 2:00 and 8:00 p.m.
- 11 Members' Meeting — 8:00 p.m.
- 13 Traditional Arts — Westwind Folk Ensemble
2:00 p.m.
- 14 Last day of "Connecting Threads:
Highlanders of Laos"
- 20 Traditional Arts — Blacksmith Bruce Northridge
2:00 p.m.
- 20 Winners of the "Fifth Annual Photography
Contest for Young People" opens
- 21 Last day of "Solar Voyage" in Planetarium
- 26 "Cosmic Limits" opens in Planetarium
- 27 Traditional Arts — Trumpet-maker Lyn Elder



Jim Patton

Most of the alligator gars in tank 43 have been in
Steinhart Aquarium since 1947.

Looking Ahead to July

- 4 Summer hours begin. The Academy is open daily
from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Members' Meeting "An Indian Ocean Odyssey"
Dr. Robert Drewes — 2:00 and 8:00 p.m.
- 9 Members' Meeting — 8:00 p.m.